



NEWS RELEASE

For more information contact Betty VanDeventer at betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov or 402.471.4537 or the USDE press office (202) 401-1576 or press@ed.gov

Editors' note: This USDE news release has been revised
Oct. 30, 2015

NEBRASKA EDUCATOR RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

Jon Cerny, principal at Bancroft-Rosalie Elementary School in Bancroft, was recently named one of seven principals nationally to receive the [Terrel H. Bell Award for Outstanding School Leadership](#).

The seven principals from the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Schools will be honored with the Terrel H. Bell Award at an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. on Monday, Nov. 9th at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the 2015 recipients earlier this week.

"Great principals shape a school's culture and nurture, retain, and empower teachers and serve as the catalyst for significant school improvement," Duncan said. "These principals inspire their teachers and have a positive impact on instructional practices that lead to improved learning outcomes. The Bell Award is recognition for the essential work they do every day."

The [U.S. Department of Education](#), together with the [National Association of Elementary School Principals](#), the [Association for Middle Level Education](#), and the

[National Association of Secondary School Principals](#) present the Terrel H. Bell Awards to principals of National Blue Ribbon Schools for their outstanding work and the vital role they play in guiding their students and schools to excellence, frequently under challenging circumstances.

The 2015 recipients are:

Jon Cerny, Bancroft-Rosalie Elementary School, Bancroft, Nebraska
Edna Coia, Francis J. Varieur School, Pawtucket, Rhode Island
James Heater, Esther F. Garrison School of Visual and Performing Arts,
Savannah, Georgia
Rosalba De Hoyos, Achieve Early College High School, McAllen, Texas
Heidi Smith, Frank L. Huff Elementary School, Mountain View, California
Irma Trosclair, South Crowley Elementary School, Crowley, Louisiana
Janell Uerkwitz, Murdock Elementary School, Lafayette, Indiana

Named for the second Secretary of Education, the award honors school leaders who are committed to education as a powerful and liberating force in people's lives. They are principals who do "whatever it takes" to foster successful teaching and learning and help their students meet high standards. The Bell Award is part of the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, and principals are nominated by their school communities during the final stages of the program's application process.

Brief summaries of each recipient's work are available at [National Blue Ribbon Schools](#).